

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A communication device operating according to an asynchronous data transmission via a symmetrical serial interface, comprising :

    a microcontroller including a CAN controller and an asynchronous serial interface unit for receiving, processing, and outputting data;

    an asynchronous serial interface receiving line;

    an asynchronous serial interface transmitting line;

    an external asynchronous serial interface port;

    an asynchronous serial interface driver device for providing an asymmetrical data exchange with the microcontroller via the asynchronous serial interface unit, the asynchronous serial interface receiving line, the asynchronous serial interface transmitting line, and the external asynchronous serial interface port;

    a CAN receiving line;

    a CAN transmitting line;

    a plurality of external CAN ports;

    a CAN driver device for providing a symmetrical data exchange with the microcontroller via the CAN controller, the CAN receiving line, the CAN transmitting line, and the plurality of external CAN ports; and

    a connecting device arranged between the CAN receiving line and the asynchronous serial interface receiving line, and arranged between the CAN transmitting line and the asynchronous serial interface transmitting line for providing a symmetrical data exchange with the microcontroller via the asynchronous serial interface unit, the CAN driver device, and the plurality of external CAN ports.

2. The communication device as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

    a control device including an external pin, wherein:

        the connecting device includes a switching device that is selectively controllable via one of the external pin and an internal port of the microcontroller, depending on a program control.

3. The communication device as recited in Claim 2, wherein:

the program control is configured such that data may be one of received and transmitted only through one of the external asynchronous serial interface port and the plurality of external CAN ports at a time.
4. The communication device as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the connecting device includes one of resistance bridges, paste resistors capable of being lasered through, and bond wires.
5. The communication device as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

a data exchange between an external device and the control device is one of task-controlled and interrupt-controlled.
6. The communication device as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the connecting device is arranged within the microcontroller.
7. The communication device as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the microcontroller includes a pin each for the asynchronous serial interface transmitting line, the asynchronous serial interface receiving line, the CAN transmitting line, and the CAN receiving line, and

the connecting device in each case connects the asynchronous serial interface transmitting line, the CAN transmitting line, the asynchronous serial interface receiving line, and the CAN receiving line within the microcontroller.
8. The communication device as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the microcontroller includes a first common pin for the CAN receiving line and the asynchronous serial interface receiving line,

the microcontroller includes a second a common pin for the CAN transmitting line and the asynchronous serial interface transmitting line, and

a selection of a desired interface being implementable via a register setting.

9. The communication device as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the external asynchronous serial interface port includes a K line ISO9141 interface.

10. The communication device as recited in Claim 1, wherein:

the communication device is made up of a vehicle control unit.